

JOHN H. REED.

---

FEBRUARY 9, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. SNOOK, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1623.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1623) granting an increase of pension to John H. Reed, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the officer named therein from \$12 to \$72 per month.

John H. Reed, now 78 years of age, served as captain of Company G, First Alabama Cavalry, from January 16, 1863, to January 3, 1864, when honorably discharged.

Medical records of the War Department furnish no information of any sickness of the officer, but the roll for October 31, 1863, shows him as absent sick in Corinth.

He never applied for pension under the general law, but is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability due to diabetes, loss of vision of left eye, and nervous and senile debility.

When last examined, on June 24, 1896, the board of surgeons found total loss of vision in the left eye, due to senile cataract, and paralysis agitans.

The affidavit of the beneficiary, filed with your committee, sets forth that he entered the service of the United States as scout and guide under General Grant in 1862; that he was appointed captain by his direction on January 16, 1863, and mustered in as of Company G, First Alabama Cavalry; that he is past 78 years of age and so blind that he has to have a constant attendant; that he is very feeble from nervous prostration and age; that he has not done a day's work for more than five years; that he has been compelled to mortgage his only home in order to obtain the necessities of life, and that the pension of \$12 per month is inadequate to support himself and wife, who is in her seventy-third year.

The fact that the officer is blind, and requires aid and attendance; that he is also very feeble, suffers from general prostration, and that he is dependent upon his friends and relatives for help is fully shown in a number of affidavits of physicians and other citizens of Selmer, Tenn., filed with your committee.

An increase of this officer's pension from \$12 to \$30 per month is justified in the light of numerous precedents, it being shown that he is totally blind and requires the aid and attendance of another person, and that he is in destitute circumstances.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended when the same shall have been amended as follows:

In line 6, before the word "Company," strike out the word "of" and insert in lieu thereof the word "captain."

In same line, before the word "Alabama," insert the word "Regiment."

In same line, before the word "Cavalry," insert the word "Volunteer."

In line 7 strike out the word "seventy-two" and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

O